**Debate**

**Topic:**

DDT (**d**ichloro**d**iphenyl**t**richloroethane) used to be a widely used insecticide until it was associated with causing cancer and a threat to wildlife. It was banned in the United States in 1972 and shortly after was banned for use in agriculture worldwide. However, it is continued to be used in less developed nations to control malaria and has had much success in this area.

*Should DDT be banned worldwide for all uses?*

**Debate format**

Opening statement For:3 min max. Define your position and outline your arguments

Opening statement Against 3 min max. Define your position and outline your arguments

First rebuttal For 2 min max.

First rebuttal Against 2 min max.

Second statement For 2 min max

Second statement Against 2 min max

Second rebuttal For 2 min max

Second rebuttal Against 2 min max

Closing arguments For 3 min max

Closing arguments Against 3 min max

**Debate points**

* Do not confuse opinion and fact. Try to use facts as much as possible and argue against your opponents when they use opinion and try to say it is a fact.
* Try to research both sides of your topic. If you know what points your opposition has then you can research how to counter them as well.
* You are trying to argue your position so don’t be afraid to motivate points for your side by eliciting emotion. Try to relate to your audience.
* Make sure all group members communicate, collaborate and understand each other’s positions and points.
* Presentation is important. Try to just glance at your cards for clarity and place in your position. Try to be looking up and devoting your attention to your counterpart on the opposition, the audience and the judge. Practice with a friend, someone on your team or in front of a mirror.
* Timing is critical. You can go under the time allowed but if you are significantly under time you are not taking advantage of your speech’s full potential. If you are over you will be cut off at your time allowed and miss an opportunity to end with a clear message.
* Make your points clear and concise and backed up with facts. Introduce them well, define them, back them with research and summarize them.
* Challenge your opponent’s sources. If an argument seems weak or stretched maybe the source may not be that reliable.

**Grading Rubric**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Level | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Use of Facts/Statistics** | Every major point was well supported with several relevant facts, statistics and/or examples. | Every major point was adequately supported with relevant facts, statistics and/or examples. | Every major point was supported with facts, statistics and/or examples, but the relevance of some was questionable. | Every point was not supported. |
| **Information** | All information presented in the debate was clear, accurate and thorough. | Most information presented in the debate was clear, accurate and thorough. | Most information presented in the debate was clear and accurate, but was not usually thorough. | Information had several inaccuracies OR was usually not clear. |
| **Presentation Style** | Team consistently used gestures, eye contact, tone of voice and a level of enthusiasm in a way that kept the attention of the audience. | Team usually used gestures, eye contact, tone of voice and a level of enthusiasm in a way that kept the attention of the audience. | Team sometimes used gestures, eye contact, tone of voice and a level of enthusiasm in a way that kept the attention of the audience. | One or more members of the team had a presentation style that did not keep the attention of the audience. |
| **Understanding of Topic** | The team clearly understood the topic in-depth and presented their information forcefully and convincingly. | The team clearly understood the topic in-depth and presented their information with ease. | The team seemed to understand the main points of the topic and presented those with ease. | The team did not show an adequate understanding of the topic. |
| **Respect for Other Team** | All statements, body language, and responses were respectful and were in appropriate language. | Statements and responses were respectful and used appropriate language, but once or twice body language was not. | Most statements and responses were respectful and in appropriate language, but there was one sarcastic remark. | Statements, responses and/or body language were consistently not respectful. |